

REMARKS

I. Status Summary

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, and 15 have been amended. Therefore, upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-18 will be pending. No new matter has been introduced by the present amendment. Reconsideration of the application as amended and based on the arguments set forth hereinbelow is respectfully requested.

II. Abstract

The Examiner objected to the abstract of the disclosure because of the reference to Fig. 1. (Official Action, page 2.) Applicants have amended the Abstract to delete the phrase "Figure 1". For this reason, applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the abstract should be withdrawn.

III. Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to Claim 1. In particular, the Examiner stated that the phrase "at the gate contact of the second semiconductor region" at element (b) of Claim 1 lacks antecedent basis and should read "at a gate contact of the second semiconductor region". (Official Action, page 2.) Further regarding Claim 1, the Examiner stated that the phrase "the at least second semiconductor region" at elements (c) and (d) should read "the at least one second semiconductor region". (Official Action, page 2.) The Examiner also stated that Claims 2-18 are similarly objected to because of their dependency upon Claim 1. (Official Action, page 2.)

Serial No.: 10/681,437

Applicants have amended Claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2-18 should be withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to Claim 4 for reciting "preferably" in the phrase "preferably in finger-like fashion". (Official Action, page 2.) Applicants have amended Claim 4 to delete "preferably". For this reason, applicants respectfully submit that the objection to Claim 4 should be withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to Claim 5 because the phrase "the gate terminal" lacks antecedent basis. (Official Action, page 2.) Further, the Examiner stated that the phrase should read "the drive terminal". (Official Action, page 2.) Applicants have amended Claim 5 as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to Claim 5 should be withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to Claim 7 for reciting "preferably" in the phrase "preferably equidistantly". (Official Action, page 2.) Applicants have amended Claim 7 to delete "preferably". For this reason, applicants respectfully submit that the objection to Claim 7 should be withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to Claim 15 for reciting "preferably" in the phrase "preferably between half the value of said gate resistor and the value of said gate resistor". (Official Action, page 2.) Applicants have amended Claim 15 to delete "preferably". For this reason, applicants respectfully submit that the objection to Claim 15 should be withdrawn.

The Examiner stated that Claims 1-18 are allowable except for the objections to the claims. (Official Action, page 3.) Applicants submit that the objections to Claims 1-

Serial No.: 10/681,437

18 should be withdrawn based on the above remarks and amendments. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in proper condition and should now be formally allowed.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

Serial No.: 10/681,437

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS, WILSON & TAYLOR, P.A.

Date: March 8, 2005

By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard E. Jenkins", written over a horizontal line.

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